

The Governor's emergency bilingual hotline remains active to provide information regarding the hurricane. The hotline will provide updated weather information, highway closings, shelter information, feeding sites, evacuation orders and will also serve as a referral line for citizens in need of help following the event. For English and Spanish citizens: **1-888-835-9966**. For Deaf and Hard of Hearing: **1-877-877-1765**.

Easley also warned citizens to be safe during recovery and clean up.

"Surviving a storm is only half the battle," said Easley. "I encourage citizens to take steps to stay safe and healthy following storms."

Easley offered the following safety tips:

- Throw away food that has been without refrigeration for longer than two hours.
- Conserve water if your septic system floods.
- If your private well flooded or lost electricity, boil water for three to five minutes.
- In warm weather, empty water out of birdbaths, tires, flowerpots and other containers to minimize mosquito infestation.
- If the pilot light on your natural gas furnace, hot-water heater or stove goes out, have it relit by a professional service representative.
- When doing repair work, make sure you are wearing the proper protective gear, including a hard hat with a face screen, safety glasses, earplugs, gloves, chainsaw cut resistant chaps or pants, and 8" lace up boots with non-skid soles.
- Read the owners manual for your chainsaw and are familiar with all its features and know how to properly operate it, and make sure the saw is sharp and properly adjusted.
- Be aware of any overhead hazards, downed trees or limbs putting tension on other trees or branches that could possibly spring up when the debris is removed.
- When using a chainsaw, do not cut any higher than chest high. When getting above the height of your chest, it makes it very difficult to maintain control of the saw.
- Stay on solid ground. Don't use a chainsaw on a ladder or when climbing, leave that to a professional.
- While the potential for flooding and swift-moving water remains, parents are urged to keep their children out of creeks and streams and citizens are urged to avoid roads that are covered in water.
- For additional flood safety information go to CCPS' web site at <http://www.nccrimecontrol.org/> and click on "Divisions," "Emergency Management," and "Severe Weather."

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